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Filed : February 19, 2004

REMARKS

In the office action, the examiner rejected Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brunts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,269) in view of Abbott et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2007/0022384). The applicant respectfully disagrees with the examiner regarding the interpretation of the cited references. Nevertheless, the applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9 to more clearly differentiate the features of the pending claims from the technologies disclosed by the cited references.

Specifically, the independent Claims 1 and 9 now include the recitation indicating that the guest database is edited by modifying the information stored in the database or adding new information to the database when the user has visited the destination with or without guest. This feature is supported by the original description of the instant application, for example, from page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 2.

Namely, the present invention is directed to the guest data management method and apparatus to create, edit and retrieve the information concerning the guest so that the user is able to entertain the guest in the most satisfactory manner at the most appropriate destination selected through the use of the guest database. Such a selected destination is in the real world, and the user updates or modifies the information every time when he/she has visited the destination in the real world. The present invention is not related to the computer games, or something that

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a user can experience in a virtual world such as the one seems to be shown in the cited Abbott et al. reference.

As discussed in the previous amendment dated November 13, 2006 in response to the previous office action, the cited Brunts et al. reference does not show the user and the quest separately, or the relationship therebetween. For example, in column 7, lines 1-10, which is one of the locations indicated by the examiner in the office action, as prima facie evidence, of the cited Brunts et al. reference reads as follows:

Each memory card would contain a selected type of data base as for example a camping information directory, a business directory, a restaurant/hotel directory, etc. for covering a given geographic area. Each memory card provides categorized destinations with corresponding latitude and longitude position coordinates within a predefined territory and also includes alphanumeric text information pertaining to each of the destinations. For example, a business directory data base may provide business names, address locations, phone numbers and business operating hours, as well as other types of information.

The description in the above quote merely shows the content of the memory card, typically the information on points of interest, but does not show the database specifically related to the situation where a user takes a guest to a destination to entertain the guest. The cited Brunts et al. reference does not show anywhere the idea of storing the information on the "name of the quests" and the "destinations associated with the guests" in the database, which are essential to the present invention. In fact, there is no reference regarding a user and a quest throughout the disclosure. The memory card of the cited Brunts et al. reference

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stores information regarding what is called a point of interest (POI) which typically include place (business) name, address, phone number, etc. In contrast, the guest database of the present invention is specifically designed to store the information regarding the quest, the destination where the guest traveled with the user in the past, impression, comments, etc.

In the office action, with respect to the step of editing the guest database of the present invention, the examiner indicates that this feature is shown by the cited Brunts et al. reference at column 14, lines 14-25. The applicant disagrees. What is actually described by this portion is as follows:

As shown, a plurality of destination categories 124 are provided which may include category selections such as food, hotel, gas, and other identifiable destination categories. Within each of the destination categories 124 may be a plurality of sub-categories 126. For example, within the food category may be sub-categories 126 which include fast food, casual dining, fine dining among other food sub-categories. Within the data base hierarchy of sub-categories, there may be another sub-category 128. For example, the sub-category 126 for casual dining may include further sub-categories 128 such as Chinese food, fish bar, Italian dining, pizza and steak house and other possible casual dining sub-categories.

Again, the above quote is merely directed to the data base hierarchy, such as category and sub-categories of points of interest, but is unrelated to the step of modifying the existing information in the quest database. Further, this part of the description is unrelated to the information based on the trip to the destination by the user and the guest as defined in the present invention. Furthermore, the cited Brunts et al. reference is

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silent about the feature that the existing information in the guest database is edited when the user has visited the destination with or without guest. Therefore, the cited Brunts et al. reference does not show the essential features of the present invention.

The cited Abbott et al. reference shows the idea of creating and using theme-related information through wearable personal computer. The techniques are described for creating, modifying, analyzing, characterizing, distributing, modeling, and using themes that represent a context of a user. The themes each include related sets of attributes that reflect the context of the user, including: (1) the user's mental state, emotional state, and physical or health condition; (2) the user's setting, situation or physical environment (including factors external to the user that can be observed and/or manipulated by the user, such as the state of the user's wearable computer); and (3) the user's logical and data telecommunications environment (or "cyber-environment," including information such as email addresses, nearby telecommunications access such as cell sites, wireless computer ports, etc.) (see paragraph 0029).

In the office action, similar to the above discussion regarding the brunt et al., with respect to the step of editing the guest database of the present invention, the examiner indicates that this feature is shown at paragraph 181 of the cited Abbott reference. The applicant disagrees. What is actually described by this paragraph is as follows:

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[0181] In a similar manner, FIG. 11N illustrates an example user interface to allow a user to explicitly modify the themes that are part of the current theme set. As with FIG. 11M, the user interface in FIG. 11N illustrates multiple themes 1150, but the illustrated themes are limited to those that are currently members of the current theme set. In addition, interaction controls 1157 allow the user to add or remove a theme from the current theme set. Selecting the "Add Theme" interaction control may, for example, prompt a display such as is shown for FIG. 11M in which one or more themes that are not currently present in the current theme set can be selected. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that other interaction controls could also be present, such as a control to temporarily suspend the execution of a theme that is part of the current theme set without removing it or to resume the execution of a suspended theme. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the addition of new themes to the current theme set can result in themes that do not match the current context being executed in the background, but processing or other functionality associated with those themes (discussed in greater detail below) may nonetheless be currently useful.

Although it shows that the themes are modified or renewed by the user, the cited Abbott et al. reference is unrelated to the guest database for selecting the best destination to entertain a particular guest under the present invention. The guest data management method and apparatus enables to create, edit and retrieve the information concerning the guest so that the user is able to entertain the guest in the most appropriate manner at the selected destination. Such a selected destination is in the real world, and the user updates or modifies the information every time when he/she has actually visited the destination in the real world with or without guest.

It appears that the activities disclosed by the cited Abbott et al. reference are confined within the computer operation, i.e.,

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in the virtual world (cyber-environment). The cited Abbott et al. reference does not show the idea of actually taking the guest to the destination, or editing the information in the database every time when the user has visited the destination as stated in the present invention which are taken place in the real world. Therefore, the cited Abbott et al. reference does not show the essential features of the present invention.

Therefore, the present invention is not obvious over the cited references taken singly or in combination.

Under the circumstances, the applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

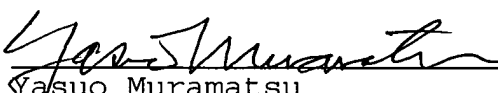
Respectfully submitted,

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